

NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE

1. Applicant's amendment filed 1/29/2010 is acknowledged. Claims 2-3, 8 and 9 have been amended. Claims 1, 6 and 7 have been canceled. Claim 20 has been added. Claims 2-5, 8-20 are pending. Claims 10-19 have been withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected invention. All of the amendments and arguments have been thoroughly reviewed and considered. Applicant's amendment places the claims 2-5, 8-9 and 20 in condition for allowance. Accordingly, all of the rejections from the last Office action are withdrawn.

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Len Svensson on May 7, 2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

(a) The non-elected claims 10-19 have been canceled.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The claims 2-5, 8-9 and 20 are deemed in condition for allowance because no prior art was found teaching a probe-aptamer complex that controls the action of a thrombin enzyme when the probe is bound to a target. Patentability of the claims is based on the combination of features recited in the claims 2-5, 8-9 and 20. Accordingly, the claims are deemed novel.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CYNTHIA B. WILDER whose telephone number is (571)272-0791. The examiner can normally be reached on a flexible schedule.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gary Benzion can be reached on (571) 272-0782. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/GARY BENZION/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1637